

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This is in response to the Office Action dated February 4, 2003. Therein, the Examiner objected to the drawings based on labeling of Figures 1(a) and 1(b) as Prior Art. This objection has been attended to.

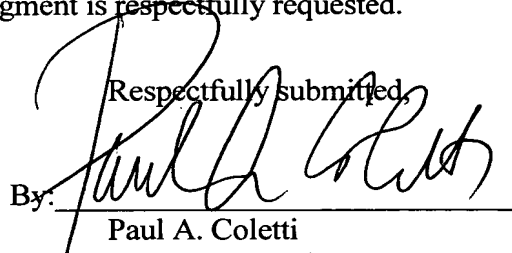
The claims were rejected under the judicially created obviousness-type double patenting. Once the claims are in allowable condition but for this rejection, the Applicants expect to file a Terminal Disclaimer with patents 5,895,406 and 6,162,243.

Claim 22 was objected to for informalities. These informalities have been attended to by the present amendment in which the language has been transposed. Now, the claim reads so that at a plurality of locations along a strut, said strut is connected to an adjacent strut by a link. Each link is actually displaced from any circumferentially adjacent link. It is believed that this amendment overcomes the objection to the claim.

Claim 21 was rejected under 35 USC § 112, first paragraph. In the last line of claim 21, the "first end region" is now claimed. Accordingly, there is ample antecedent basis for this element, and it is believed that this rejection is eliminated.

Claim 20 has been canceled.

Accordingly, it is believed that claims 21 and 22 are in condition for allowance but for the filing of a Terminal Disclaimer. Such acknowledgment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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